REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 22, 25, 27, 30, 33, 36 and 38 have been amended. Claims 5, 21 and 32 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-20, 22-31 and 33-40 are pending. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the following remarks.

In section (3) Status of Claims on p. 2 of the Examiner's Answer of November 30, 2004, the Examiner stated that claims 5-13, 15, 21-29 and 32-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 17 and 30 have been amended to include the limitations from claims 5, 21 and 32, respectively. Claims 6, 9, 11, 15, 22, 25, 27, 33, 36 and 38 have been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The amended claims should all be allowable per the Examiner's statement in the Examiner's Answer. According, Applicants assert that the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-64900/RCK.

⊠ Return Receipt Postcard	
Petition for Extension of Time	
☐ Notice of Change of Address	
Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the an	nount of \$
for fees ().	
Other:	

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Kowert Reg. No. 39,255

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.

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Date: _____January 7, 2005